

SIMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND  
EEFORMEB, 483

page even, without being covered with falsehood and insult, though on the morrow my assailants have "been constrained to admit that I was in the right."

After indicating that he personally harboured no anger or rancour against anybody, Zola pointed out that, in the public interest, some example ought to be made of the wrong-doers, for otherwise the masses would never believe in the immensity of the crime. "But," said he, "I leave to Nemesis the task of completing her work. I shall not aid her." Then came an impassioned appeal on behalf of the noble and persecuted Colonel Picquart, for the good work would only be complete when justice had been done him. And Zola continued:

" All former political parties have now collapsed, and there remain but two camps, — that of the reactionary forces of the past, and that of the men bent on inquiry, truth, and uprightness, who are marching towards the future. That order of battle alone is logical; it must be retained in order that to-morrow may be ours. To work, then ! By pen, by speech, and by action! To work for progress and deliverance ! 'Twill be the completion of the task of 1789, a pacific revolution in mind and in heart, the democracy welded together, freed from evil passions, based at last on the just law of labour which will permit an equitable apportionment of wealth. Thenceforward France a free country, France a dispenser of justice, the harbinger of the equitable society of the coming century, will once more find herself a sovereign among the nations.

And there exists no empire, however cased  
in mail it be, but will  
crumble when France shall have given  
justice to the world even as  
she has already given it liberty. I believe  
in no other historical  
*rdle* for her henceforward; never yet will  
she have known such a  
splendour of glory."

The conclusion followed: